

# Lowell City News

**Spring**

**2020 Spring Edition  
March/April/May 2020**

**Community  
Calendar**

## State of the City Address By Mayor Chris Moore



THE CITY OF  
**LOWELL**  
ARKANSAS

### **COVID-19 NOTICE** *To all residents*

*Although the City of Lowell has closed all facilities, we are still here, working for you. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or need to speak with anyone.*



Good Evening. I am honored to be standing before you this evening. I would like to thank Mr. Raymond Burns, and his staff from the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for being here tonight. I would also like to welcome the city officials in attendance, the city employees, and most importantly, the citizens of Lowell.

In 2019, we accomplished many great things with the help of many people. I use the word "WE" in giving credit for the successes of this year, quite literally. The word "we" is centrally located in the spelling of Lowell, and we want to make sure the people living here know that they are at the center of our progress.

The progress I talk about tonight is evident in three major areas including, Economic and Community Development, Municipal Services, and our updated city ordinances.

A growing business community is a growing city, and in 2019, we issued 61 NEW business licenses, to places that many of you enjoy daily. These businesses include places like Harps, JT's Tri-Tip Grill, 7-Brew, Paco's Tires, and Speedy Splash Car Wash. All of this while many businesses, including JB Hunt, our largest employer, continues to expand. Additionally, we added 22 new home businesses and a Food Truck Court with several other food trucks positioned around town. This alone is a testament that our city is primed for small start-ups and is encouraging small business.

During the summer, with the help of our great partners at the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, we launched and participated in a community action plan called Vision 100. This plan surveyed what you, the people who choose to live, work and play in our city, want to see in the community's future.

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**City Council Meeting**  
**6:30 PM**  
**3rd Tuesday of the month**

**Planning Commission**  
**6:00 PM**  
**2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month**

**Court Dates**

**Arraignment**  
**8:00 AM**  
**March 9, 2020**  
**April & May Cancelled**

**Discovery**  
**9:00 AM**  
**March 13, 2020**  
**April & May Cancelled**

**Trial**  
**10:00 AM**  
**March 13, 2020**  
**April & May Cancelled**

**Holidays**  
**CLOSED**  
**Memorial Day**  
**May 25, 2020**

[www.lowellarkansas.gov](http://www.lowellarkansas.gov) 479-770-2185



# State of the City



**Mayor  
Chris Moore**

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We took your feedback and will work to implement this into our future growth plan. But the work doesn't stop there, we will continue to survey and listen to what our residents want so that we can make Lowell a cohesive and connected community for years to come.

In September, Central Research, Inc. announced plans to develop more than 30 acres on the Southwest corner of West Monroe Avenue and Interstate 49, which has sat vacant for nearly 20 years. The Lowell based business plans to build a multi-use development that will not only be home to its new headquarters, but will also bring many jobs to that side of town.

People continue to move to our city. The updated population numbers we received in 2019, showed that we are approximately 9,500 strong, that is just under a 30% increase in population from 2010. This means we have to offer more places for newcomers to live and places for their children to receive a quality education. The city welcomed 3 new subdivisions in 2019, while Lowell Elementary started a 52,000 sq. ft. remodel and expansion.

We continued to develop our Kathleen Johnson Memorial Park. We recently added a Veterans Memorial to honor our Nations heroes. A new waterline was also installed there to continue building our infrastructure in the park.

The City hosted over 700 participants for the 2019 Easter Egg Hunt, our largest turnout ever for this event, something that the city and local faith leaders are very proud of. The 43rd Annual Mudtown Days saw its biggest crowd to date with many people giving us positive feedback. Last year's festival was so popular that we are completely booked on the food and beverage vendors for our 2020 Mudtown Days.

With the help of many volunteers, we successfully launched a Christmas parade and tree lighting event in our downtown area. This was our first downtown based event in over 15 years, it exposed many people to this area of town. We hope to have even more lights and activities for people to enjoy this year with the

help of our A&P Commission.

On top of the great advances we have made this year, the City experienced several severe storms in October, including the widest tornado in Benton County's history.

We witnessed our emergency service personnel step up to help our neighboring communities. I would like to recognize the Lowell Fire Department for their work to assist the City of Rogers in its time of need.

We witnessed Fire Chief Pete Melnicki greatly increase the effectiveness of his department. Under his leadership, the fire department created a training regimen to better prepare our fire fighters to efficiently save lives.

Chief Melnicki also took on the duties of Fire Marshall as well as his own day to day duties as chief. Lastly, he and the regional Chiefs have readdressed the plans for a regional disaster response. All this means more fire and EMS protection for the citizens of Lowell.

The Police Department has reorganized and updated its facilities, under the direction of Chief Tim Kuth. He has led his team to place more police officers on patrol without increasing the city budget.

Chief Kuth has also reorganized the shift structure, while adopting the Animal Control Department back into the Police Department. This means the animal welfare officers can also act as patrol officers. His staff has attended 2,700 hours of training, which was an increase of 40% over the previous year.

We made a commitment to streamline this government, and over the last year the results have been astounding. We worked to lower fees and permit costs so those who wish to build and expand businesses, are not turned away but instead, are attracted by what we have to offer. The City has seen an increase in the building permits issued for 2019. There was a 28% increase in commercial building permits and a 43% increase in residential building permits.



## State of the City

Continued  
From pg. 2

We have enacted an ordinance to remove reinspection fees while adopting rules which will create efficiency when repairing sewer lines. Our planning staff has worked diligently to make sure our ordinances and zoning are fostering continued growth within our city by allowing residents to have smaller lot sizes if they choose to do so, ultimately increasing our density.

In the last year, I have watched every single employee of this City work towards excellence. I would be remiss not to thank each and every one of them for their hard work in meeting our goals, but we cannot do it alone. I would like to challenge each citizen of Lowell to get involved by something as simple as volunteering at the Animal Shelter or by sitting on a committee. Attending regular meetings to provide feedback is also a vital role. Participation in what we do here at the city is key to a successful and transparent government.

While we still have goals ahead to move forward, I am pleased and excited by the strides we have made to date. I restate my commitment to have accountable government which is the most effective and as fiscally responsible as we can be. With progress, and the results we have seen in the last year, I know our mutual success is within reach in 2020!  
Thank you and God bless.

*Mayor Chris Moore*



### BLESSING BOX

A Free Little Pantry was installed at Lowell's McClure Park on February 14th. Thanks to JoDee McCord who came up with the idea to place a Blessing Box in Lowell. Giving back to the community is very important to JoDee, so with the help of her employer, she was able to build the box and have it mounted. The local non-profit

organization, Food Fairies, and local donations, enable her to keep it stocked. Many within our community experience the struggle to keep their families fed. Any time, day or night, you can come and gather what you need for a meal, and it's free.

**Scott Dillard** founded his business in Lowell in 2002 along with his father and has seen tremendous success resulting in the creation of hundreds of jobs in Lowell. The core values of his company, Central Research, Inc., are integrity, loyalty, and excellence and they exemplify these values every day by serving the community and giving back through volunteering. His company has been recognized as one of the most veteran-friendly businesses in America. Recently, he announced new expansion plans for the company that will bring new commercial development to unused property in Lowell and create new career opportunities for residents.

### Elbert S. Graham-Elza Tucker Award



Spring shows  
what God can do  
with a drab and dirty  
World.  
-Virgil Kraft

## DID YOU KNOW...

### LOWELL ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

**Did you know?** That all dogs and cats living within Lowell City limits are required to be registered at the Lowell Animal Shelter?

Registration is free, forms can be picked up at the Shelter. All Dogs and Cats must have updated Rabies shots, and must be microchipped. Proof of both must be turned in with the registration form in order for it to be complete.

Microchipping is offered at the shelter for any dog or cat for \$20, and may be done at the time of registration. Please feel free to call the Shelter at 479-770-0166 Opt. #4 if you have any questions.

### Update on Road and Street Projects:

**Dixieland Extension** - A portion of JB Hunt Corporate Drive is scheduled to be closed from March 21st until March 29 to complete the roundabout. Extension is projected to be completed June 20, 2020.

**North Goad Springs Road**—Anticipated completion is July 31, 2020.

### **McClure Railroad Crossing Upgrade:**

The Railroad Crossing on McClure Street in Lowell is slated for an upgrade this year. Projected Start date is July-September 2020.

### **Highway 264 and Bellview**

A Roundabout is approximately 25% designed for this intersection.

### **Other Projects:**

**Sabre Heights Subdivision**—This Lowell subdivision has been experiencing septic problems for many years. Beginning late last year, the City of Lowell began working with property owners to help them find a solution. Engineering designs and probable cost estimates have been shared with property owners. The City is working with them to help find a funding solution to cover the costs of improving this sewer system.

**The Lowell Fire Department** will soon be receiving a Ladder Truck and Ambulance thanks to the generous donation from J.B. Hunt, Inc.

**Lowell Fire and Police** will be working together to train all officers and city staff for CPR certification.

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

### STATUS UPDATE

#### SELF-RESPONSE PHASE

The public is strongly encouraged to respond online.  
(Options for responding by phone or mail are also available.)

**PLANNED  
SCHEDULE**

**ADJUSTMENT**

**REVISED  
SCHEDULE**

**March 12—July 31**

**Extended**

**March 12-August 14**

For more information, go to: <https://2020census.gov/>



### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Karen Davis, Lowell's Community Development Director, was presented an Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of her successful completion of the Professional Community Development and Economic Development Certification.**

*Congratulations Karen!*

### Waste Management Trash & Lawn Bags

Bags are no longer sold at Lowell City Hall. You can purchase these bags through Waste Management one of two ways. You can pick up bags at their Springdale location:

1041 Arbor Acres Ave  
Springdale, AR.

Or, you can contact WM by phone: 479-361-1111 or by email: [csctak@wm.com](mailto:csctak@wm.com)

*Please note* that you will be required to pay for the bags when you call. They will deliver bags to your home on the next scheduled trash pickup day.

No matter how  
long the winter,  
spring is sure  
to follow.

~Proverb





# WHAT DO YOU DO IN CASE OF A TORNADO



**TORNADO WATCH** issued when conditions are favorable for a tornado.

**TORNADO WARNING** issued when a developing tornado has been detected by the National Weather Service dopplar radar. If a tornado has been detected in your area:

- Go to a windowless interior room on lowest level of your house. Go to a storm cellar or basement if your house has one. If there is no basement, go to the inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Get away from windows.
- Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they tend to attract debris.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
- Use your arms to protect head and neck.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.

#### **IF YOU ARE IN A CAR DURING A TORNADO**

- Never try to drive faster than a tornado. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift a car or truck and toss it through the air.
- Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building.
- If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Do not take shelter under a highway overpass, where wind speeds can increase due to a tunneling effect. Be aware of the potential for flooding.

#### **TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS—FREE**

BC ALERT is your portal to get free emergency alerts in Benton County.

To sign up, go to: <http://www.bcalert.com>.



**CHICKEN CHART  
WHERE & HOW MANY**

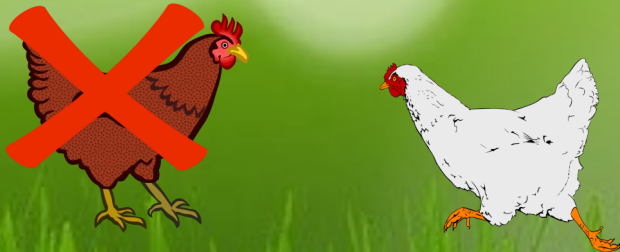
**Ordinance No. 1037, Sec. 6-74**

This ordinance allows some residents to keep chickens. The Ordinance, with the specific rules, can be found on our website ([www.lowellarkansas.gov](http://www.lowellarkansas.gov)) under “Community Resources, Ordinances” .  
A few specifics are listed below:

- 1) The number of chickens allowed are dependent on the Zone you reside in (see the attached “Chicken Chart”). If you do not know what zone you reside in, you can find this on the website under “Community Resources, Zoning”.
- 2) Chickens must be kept in a secure enclosure.
- 3) No Roosters allowed.
- 4) You must obtain a permit before you bring chickens into the city limits.

ZONES	NUMBER OF CHICKENS ALLOWED
R-A	10 CHICKENS UP TO 15 CHICKENS WITH ADDITIONAL 1/2 ACRE
R-B	8 CHICKENS
R-C	6 CHICKENS
R-D	6 CHICKENS
R-E	6 CHICKENS

Sign up for Lowell’s new notification system. This will allow you to receive direct notification of City alerts, news and events to your inbox.  
Go to:  
<http://www.lowellarkansas.gov/city-hall/newsletterssignup.aspx> and complete the sign up form.



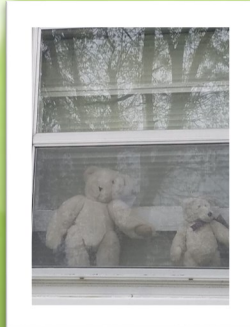
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR  
GRASS TRIMMED, MOWED OR CUT.**

Ordinance No. 726, Sec. 12-46, states that “All owners of any lot of real property are hereby required to trim, mow or cut weeds or grass in excess of 6 inches in height as needed to maintain the height below 6inches.”





*Thanks to all that participated and shared their photos on facebook! We hope you had as much fun as we did.*




*Thank you Sign Gypsies for posting the encouraging words!*





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